

Readout of the Second Ocean Policy Committee Meeting

January 28, 2022

Today, the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Brenda Mallory, and the President's Science Advisor and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Dr. Eric Lander, convened the second Biden-Harris Administration meeting of the Ocean Policy Committee (OPC). The OPC is a Congressionally mandated, Secretary-level interagency body to coordinate ocean science and technology and management policy across the federal government. It also serves as a mechanism for engaging ocean stakeholders in the Administration's key priorities, which include tackling climate change, advancing environmental justice, and building the clean energy economy.

During today's meeting, OPC members received an update from the Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (SOST) regarding its progress on advancing the role of environmental justice in the federal government's ocean science and technology activities. The SOST's progress includes facilitating trainings and providing educational opportunities for Federal workers, and the development of best practices for integrating environmental justice principles into agency actions around ocean science and technology policy.

OPC members also discussed the Committee's 2022 Workplan, which is comprised of three major goals:

- Maximize the benefits of co-use of the ocean
- Develop ocean-based climate solutions
- Provide strategic direction to the U.S. ocean science and technology enterprise

The Committee discussed and identified associated action items for each goal, including the development of an Ocean-Climate Action Plan, the creation of a National Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, and the continued development and applications of spatial data and tools to support national and regional coordination across ocean uses. The OPC was also given an update on the establishment of the Ocean Research Advisory Panel, with a public notice soliciting nominations expected to be published in the Federal Register in the Spring, and a new website (<https://www.noaa.gov/interagency-ocean-policy>) to keep ocean stakeholders informed about the work of the OPC and its subcommittees. Ongoing work of the OPC also includes development by the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council of geographic and subject-matter priorities for exploration and characterization of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, which will be released for public comment this Spring.

OPC membership is comprised of the following Departments and Agencies:

- Department of State
- Department of Defense and Navy
- Department of Justice
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce

- Department of Transportation
- Department of Energy
- Department of Homeland Security and Coast Guard
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Office of Management and Budget
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Office of the Director of National Intelligence
- White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy
- Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
- Joint Chiefs of Staff
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Science Foundation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
- Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism
- Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
- Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
- Office of the Vice President
- Committee on Marine Transportation Systems
- Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council